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AMS MURDER

NIGHT LEAD POWERS

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WASHINGTON, FEB. 12 (AP)—SENATORS BEGAN MOVING IN TODAY ON THE MANY MYSTERIOUS ASPECTS OF U2 PILOT FRANCIS GARY POWERS' ADVENTURES BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN AND HIS DRAMATIC RELEASE.

SEN. STROM THURMOND, D-S.C., PROPOSED THAT THE 32-YEAR-OLD FLIER BE CALLED BEFORE A PUBLIC SESSION OF THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE TO TELL THE STORY OF HIS CAPTURE.

IN SUGGESTING THAT POWERS BE INVITED TO TELL HIS STORY AT A PUBLIC HEARING OF THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE, THURMOND SAID:

"IN FAIRNESS TO MR. POWERS, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WOULD TO HEAR HIS STORY FROM MR. POWERS HIMSELF.

"IF THERE IS NO BLAME, THIS OUGHT TO BE BROUGHT OUT."

AIDES OF SEN. RICHARD B. RUSSELL, D-GA., WHO HEADS THE ARMED SERVICES GROUP, SAID RUSSELL WOULD HAVE NO COMMENT AT THIS TIME ON THURMOND'S SUGGESTION.

THE ACTING CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, SEN. JOHN SPARKMAN, D-ALA., CALLED ON THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO GIVE THE COMMITTEE A FULL REPORT ON ITS INTERROGATION OF POWERS.

THIS INTERROGATION, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BRING MILITARY, DIPLOMATIC AND INTELLIGENCE OFFICIALS CLUSTERING AROUND POWERS IN A CLOSELY GUARDED ROOM SOMEWHERE, APPARENTLY STILL LIES AHEAD.

THE ONLY OFFICIAL WORD ON THE SPY PLANE PILOT'S WHEREABOUTS DURING THE DAY WAS THIS CRYPTIC STATEMENT:

"THE FACTS ARE THAT HE IS HERE AND THAT HE IS SEEING HIS FAMILY AND WILL BE GOING THROUGH THIS INTERROGATION."

THAT WORD CAME FROM PRESS OFFICER LINCOLN WHITE AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY PETER SALINGER, WHO BROKE THE NEWS OF POWERS' RELEASE IN AN EARLY MORNING PRISONER EXCHANGE WITH THE SOVIETS SATURDAY, HAD NOTHING FURTHER TO SAY TODAY. HE REFERRED INQUIRIES TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

POWERS, WHOSE CAPTURE DEEP INSIDE RUSSIA CREATED AN INTERNATIONAL UPROAR IN MAY 1960, WAS TRADED WITH ANOTHER AMERICAN PRISONER FOR SOVIET SPY RUDOLF I. ABELE.

HE WAS FLOWN BACK TO THIS COUNTRY AND REUNITED WITH SOME MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY AT AN UNDISCLOSED RETIREMENT. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS USED ELABORATE METHODS TO PREVENT THE PUBLIC FROM LEARNING OF THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE POWERS' REUNION.

WHITE WAS ASKED AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT WHETHER THE FLIER IS "UNDER DETENTION" AND

I REPLIED "NO--NOT TO MY KNOWLEDGE."

EVIDENTLY THE ONLY FAMILY MEMBERS WHO HAVE BEEN PERMITTED TO SEE POWERS THUS FAR ARE HIS WIFE, BARBARA, WHO FLEW HERE FROM HER MOTHER'S HOME AT WILLEDGEVILL, GA., AND POSSIBLY HIS PARENTS, MR. AND MRS. OLIVER W. POWERS OF HORTON, VA.

THE REUNION IS BELIEVED TO BE TAKING PLACE SOMEWHERE ALONG THE ATLANTIC COAST, PROBABLY WITHIN 100-150 MILES OF WASHINGTON.

ONE OF POWERS'S SISTERS, MRS. WILLIAM B. HILSMAN, 25, SAID SHE IS "BURNED UP" BY ALL THE SECRECY.

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"I THINK ALL THIS STUFF IS RIDICULOUS, ABSOLUTELY UNCALLED FOR," SHE TOLD A REPORTER. "SOMEONE WILL TELL ME WHERE MY BIG BROTHER IS. IF I KNOW, I'D GO SEE HIM, EVEN IF I HAD TO WALK."

MRS. HILSMAN, WHO LIVES IN GLASSBORO, N.J., SAID THE SUSPENSE IS EVEN HARDER ON ANOTHER SISTER, MRS. WESLEY MELVIN, 30, OF FALLS CHURCH, VA.

"SHE HAS ASTHMA," MRS. HILSMAN SAID, "AND WHEN SHE GETS EXCITED SHE CAN HARDLY BREATHE. IT'S KILLING HER."

SIMILARLY THERE WAS NO COMMENT AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT ON SPARKMAN'S REQUEST FOR A REPORT TO THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE. SPARKMAN WROTE TO SECRETARY OF STATE DEAN RUSK RECALLING THAT THE COMMITTEE, CONDUCTED LENGTHY HEARINGS ON THE U2 SPI PLANE INCIDENT IN THE SUMMER OF 1960.

"WE ARE INTERESTED NOW IN COMPLETING THOSE HEARINGS BY RECEIVING SUCH INFORMATION AS MAY NOW BE AVAILABLE FROM MR. POWERS," HE TOLD RUSK.

SPARKMAN ACTED IN THE ABSENCE OF CHAIRMAN J.W. FULLERIGHT, D-ARK. WHO IS ON A TRIP TO HIS HOME STATE.

SPARKMAN TOLD A REPORTER THAT IF NECESSARY THE COMMITTEE WILL ASK FOR A BRIEFING FROM OFFICIALS OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, WHO WILL HAVE CHARGE OF QUESTIONING POWERS. WHILE IT NEVER HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY ACKNOWLEDGED, IT IS WIDELY ASSUMED POWERS WORKED FOR THE CIA.

SPARKMAN SAID THERE ARE NO PRESENT PLANS FOR THE COMMITTEE TO QUESTION POWERS PERSONALLY, BUT, HE ADDED, "THIS IS NOT TO BE TAKEN AS ABSOLUTELY FINAL."

AS A STARTER, HE SAID, THE COMMITTEE WILL QUESTION STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS.

"WE WILL WANT THE FULL STORY, REGARDLESS OF WHAT AGENCY MAY HAVE POSSESSION OF THE INFORMATION," SPARKMAN ADDED. "I DON'T BELIEVE THERE IS ANY QUESTION BUT WHAT THE CIA WILL MAKE AVAILABLE A FULL REPORT. . ."

HE EXPECTS THE HEARING TO START IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS.

SENATE DEMOCRATIC LEADER MIKE MANSFIELD OF MONTANA, TOLD A REPORTER IT WOULD BE "SOUND AND REASONABLE" FOR THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE TO BE BRIEFED ON WHATEVER INFORMATION POWERS GIVES HIM QUESTIONERS.

AMONG THE POINTS IN WHICH COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXPRESSED INTEREST WERE THESE:

WAS POWERS' HIGH-FLYING RECONNAISSANCE PLANE SHOT DOWN FROM MORE THAN 60,000 FEET ALTITUDE, AS THE RUSSIANS CLAIMED, OR WAS HE FORCED DOWN BY MECHANICAL TROUBLES?

WHAT WERE THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF HIS CAPTURE? THE RUSSIANS SAID POWERS COULD HAVE DESTROYED HIS PLANE, ALONG WITH ITS CAMERA AND OTHER EQUIPMENT. THEY ALSO SAID HE CARRIED THE MEANS OF SELFDESTRUCTION.

SEN. HOWARD W. CANNON, D-MEV., SAID HE WAS "DISAPPOINTED IN MR. POWERS' CONDUCT AFTER HIS CAPTURE" AND EXPRESSED HOPE THE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE WOULD CALL HIM FOR QUESTIONING.

CANNON TOLD A REPORTER HE WANTS TO KNOW WHAT SORT OF TRAINING OR INDOCTRINATION POWERS HAD RECEIVED TO PREPARE HIMSELF FOR THE POSSIBILITY OF CAPTURE.

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